



Bedfordshire Specialist Children's Services

Essential Service Delivery for Children during the Covid-19 pandemic

Bedfordshire Community Health Services moved to the delivery of 'Essential' health services as per National guidance from Monday 23rd March 20.

The Specialist Children Services have risk assessed their caseloads to ensure the needs of CYP and family needs are met. Staff have been internally re-deployed as required with Children's services to enable the safe delivery of essential services.

All home visits are preceded with telephone contact to check to see if anyone within the household has any symptoms of the coronavirus so that staff are prepared and have access to and are wearing the appropriate PPE when visiting.

Service Delivery

- End of Life Care: This continues to be delivered by local Hospice Services.
- Continuing Care: The team continue to support 5 children and their families that are eligible for a continuing care package. These packages of care are delivered in the home and provide respite for families of children that have complex health care needs. The staff have access to the use of the appropriate PPE as required. This group of staff have been trained in the use of the FFP3 PPE for use with children that are undergoing aerosol generating procedures as per national guidance.
- Complex Care: The team continues to provide case-management/ co-ordination for a much larger cohort of children that have complex health needs and are receiving care from an external care provider and/or have complex health needs and are being cared for by their parents/school. Contacts for this group of children are maintained through telephone contact. Calls are being co-ordinated with the school and social care to ensure families do not receive multiple/duplication of contacts. All families have been provided with the contact details of the Specialist Children's Single Point of Contact in case they require adhoc support.
- Epilepsy service: The caseload of children with Epilepsy and that are currently being managed by the Specialist Epilepsy Nurse have been RAG rated.

The children RAG rated Red and have the most complex needs continue to be case managed by the Epilepsy Specialist Nurse, often requiring regular medication reviews and support, which on the whole continues to be delivered via telephone contact.

The Community Paediatricians are supporting the children RAG rated Amber with annual medication reviews. These reviews are being delivered via telephone contact.

The Children RAG rated Green have the contact details of the Specialist Children's Single Point of Contact in case they require adhoc support.

- Special School Nursing Team:

The three Special Schools (Ridgeway, St. Johns and Ivel Valley) remain open and are providing provision for 'key worker' and vulnerable children.

The number of children that are accessing this provision is low with St Johns currently providing support for the largest cohort of children.

The Special School Nursing team have been regularly contacting families via telephone contact. Calls are being co-ordinated with the school and social care to ensure families do not receive multiple/duplication of contacts.

All families have been provided with the contact details of the Specialist Children's Single Point of Contact in case they require adhoc support.

The Special School Nurses continue to input into EHCP reviews and are continuing to have input into core groups etc where required.

- Children's Community Nursing Team:

This team has been enhanced by staff redeployments from the 0-19 service, all of whom either have experience of working in Specialist Children's Services or are Registered Sick Children Nurses.

Staff redeployment and subsequent refresher training have enabled a 7 day a week service, which is now in operation.

This team are supporting early discharge from local and tertiary hospitals and preventing avoidable hospital admissions by delivering care in the home and some clinic contact where appropriate.